

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 LONDON 2625

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: UK, MARR, MASS, AWACS
SUBJECT: DISCUSSIONS WITH MOD ON US-UK COOPERATION
IN ARMAMENTS AND IN NATO STANDARDIZATION

SUMMARY. MOD OFFICIALS DISCUSSED PROSPECTS FOR FASTER
PROGRESS TOWARD GREATER ARMAMENTS COOPERATION BETWEEN
UK AND US AS WELL AS IN ALLIANCE AS A WHOLE. UK SIDE
EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT IN US DELAY OF A YEAR IN IS-
SUING NECESSARY IMPLEMENTING DIRECTIVE FOR THE US-UK MOU
ON ARMAMENTS COOPERATION, US FAILURE TO MEET 30 PERCENT
OFFSET TARGET FOR SUB- HARPOON PROGRAM, US DELAY IN
SIGNING PREVIOUSLY NEGOTIATED MOU FOR THE UK LICENSED
PRODUCTION OF THE CANNON LAUNCHED GUIDED PROJECTILE, US
FOOTDRAGGING IN THE PLAN FOR US TESTING OF UK SKYFLASH
AIR-TO-AIR GUIDED MISSILE, FRG FAILURE TO SUPPORT NATO
AWACS, AND EUROPEAN PROGRAM GROUP'S INABILITY TO BEGIN
INTERACTION WITH US. END SUMMARY.

1. M/GEN RICHARD BOWMAN (DIRECTOR, EUROPEAN/NATO AF-
FAIRS, OSD/ISA) ACCOMPANIED BY POL-MIL ATTACHE AND AIR
ATTACHE MET ON 11 FEBRUARY WITH CORNFORD, CHIEF EXECU-
TIVE, PROCUREMENT EXECUTIVE; MACDONALD, AUS FOR INTER-
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NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL POLICY JCROBERTS, AUS FOR MILITARY
SALES; ANDERSON, DUS FOR POLICY AND PROGRAMS; AND
MACKLEN, DEPUTY CHIEF SCIENTIFIC ADVISOR, TO DISCUSS
US-UK COOPERATION AND ALLIANCE EFFORTS TO MOVE TOWARD
GREATER STANDARDIZATION OF WEAPONS SYSTEMS.

2. CORNFORD, DISCUSSING THE EUROPEAN PROGRAM GROUP

(EPG), SAID HE HAD HOPED TO RAISE QUESTION OF EPG'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE US AT THE FORTHCOMING MARCH MEETING OF THE FOUR POWER ARMAMENTS DIRECTORS BUT HE NOW HAD SOME DOUBTS ABOUT ADVISABILITY OF DOING SO SINCE DEPARTURE OF CURRIE AND DELPECH AS WELL AS UNCERTAIN SITUATION IN FRG MOD WOULD ALMOST CERTAINS MAKE MARCH MEETING MORE OF A GET-ACQUAINED SESSION THAN AN OPPORTUNITY FOR PROGRESS ON MAJOR SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES. NOTING THAT EPG HAS NO "APPROPRIATE SPOKESMAN" AND THAT ITALY'S ROLE AS CHAIRMAN HAS BEEN EXTENDED FOR ANOTHER YEAR IN DEFERENCE TO DESIRE OF SMALLER ALLIES WHO DON'T WISH TO SEE ANY OF THE "BIG THREE" IN THE CHAIR, BOTH CORNFORD AND MACDONALD UNDERSCORED UK VIEW THAT AN EPG DIALOGUE WITH US IS IMPORTANT. HOWEVER, THEY STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF ALLOWING EPG TO MAKE THE FIRST MOVE TOWARD OPENING THE DIALOGUE, INDICATING THAT TOO EARLY A PUSH BY THE US COULD BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE. IN UK'S VIEW, ITALY IS HANDLING EPG CHAIR "WELL" BUT IS NOT UP TO SPEEDEN THE SORTS OF THINGS WHICH NEED TO BE TALKED OVER WITH THE US.

3. EMPHASIZING THE CONTINUING STRONG US SUPPORT FOR NATO STANDARDIZATION EFFORTS AND HOPE FOR AN EFFECTIVE EPG ROLE IN RATIONALIZING EUROPEAN PARTICIPATION IN ARMAMENTS DEVELOPMENT AND PRODUCTION AS A NECESSARY BASIS FOR OVERALL ALLIANCE COOPERATION, BOWMAN SUGGESTED THE EPG SHOULD BE CONSIDERING NOW WHICH EUROPEAN ALLIES SHOULD BE INVOLVED IN PRODUCTION UNDER LICENSE OF CERTAIN US WEAPONS SYSTEMS SUCH AS THE CANNON LAUNCHED

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GUIDED PROJECTILE, THE NEW 105MM TANK GUN AMMUNITION, THE AIM-9L AIR-TO-AIR MISSILE, AS WELL AS PROPOSING TO THE US THAT EUROPE TAKE ON APPROPRIATE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS. CORNFORD SAID HE HOPED THINGS WOULD MOVE THAT WAY BUT ALL MUST EXPECT PROGRESS TO BE SLOW. MACDONALD SAID INFORMAL SUGGESTIONS OF THE KIND JUST DISCUSSED WERE VERY HELPFUL BUT IN REPLY TO A QUESTION WHETHER A FORMAL INITIATIVE BY THE US WOULD BE USEFUL, BOTH CORNFORD AND MACDONALD SAID "DEFINITELY NOT." IN THEIR VIEW IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT EUROPEANS MUST TAKE "THE INITIATIVE IN EPG" BUT UK WOULD WELCOME ADDITIONAL INFORMAL SUGGESTIONS FROM US. WE AGREED US WOULD GIVE MATTER FURTHER CONSIDERATION.

4. CONCERNING ALLIANCE POLICIES ON LICENSING WE INDICATED US INTENTION TO SEND AN AUGMENTED DELEGATION TO AC-97 MEETING WHICH DPC HAS DESIGNATED AS FORUM FOR CONSIDERING LICENSING POLICY. MACDONALD SAID UK WOULD CONSIDER DOING LIKEWISE AND AGREED THAT WE SHOULD

MOVE TOWARDS DESIGNATING EACH NEW WEAPONS SYSTEMS AS
A NATO PROGRAM WITH CONFIGURATION CONTROL TO ACHIEVE
MAXIMUM POSSIBLE STANDARDIZATION. IN REACTION TO
CITING OF ROLAND, F-16 AND SEASPARROW AS GOOD EXAMPLES,
THE BRITISH THOUGHT SUB-HARPOON AND SKYFLASH MIGHT BE
GOOD CANDIDATES ALSO.

5. IN DISCUSSING THE US-UK MOU ON DEFENSE COOPERATION,
ROBERTS ASKED ABOUT US POSTURE FOR 18 FEBRUARY MEETING
IN WASHINGTON ON IMPLEMENTATION. SAYING THAT MOD IS
PLEASED WITH THE DOD IMPLEMENTING DIRECTIVE FOR THE MOU,
ROBERTS NONETHELESS STRESSED THAT THE YEAR'S DELAY HAS
FURTHER TILTED THE BALANCE AGAINST THE UK. OVER THE
YEARS THE BALANCE SHEET HAS BEEN SIGNIFICANTLY IN FAVOR
OF THE US AND WITH FURTHER UK PURCHASES FROM THE US
"IM PROSPEC" ROGERS EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE UK ATTACHES
TO SELLING SOME MAJOR UK DEFENSE ITEMS TO US. EVEN SO
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THE BALANCE IS LIKELY TO REMAIN IN FAVOR OF THE US.

6. WHILE UK INDUSTRY IS DISAPPOINTED AT FAILURE TO
WIN MORE F-18 AIRCRAF SUB- CONTRACTS AFTER EXPENDING A

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GREAT AMOUNT OF EFFORT, THEY UNDERSTAND WHY THEY DID NOT DO BETTER. ROGERS SAID UK INDUSTRY IS DETERMINED TO IMPROVE EFFICIENCY AND COMPETITIVENESS AND IT WILL TAKE TIME FOR BRITISH FIRMS TO GET TO KNOW THEIR WAY AROUND DOD AND HOW TO RESPOND TO US SOLICITATIONS. DEFENSE SALES ORGANIZATION WILL DO ALL IT CAN ON GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT LEVEL TO SEE THAT BRITISH FIRMS HAVE A REAL CHANCE TO COMPETE EFFECTIVELY AND TO PENETRATE US DEFENSE MARKET. ON THIS SCORE, UK IS VERY DISAPPOINTED IN SUB-HARPOON OFFSET PROGRAM SINCE IT APPEARS UK INDUSTRY WILL NOT GET MUCH OF A ROLE. ROGERS PLANS TO RAISE ISSUE IN WASHINGTON AND HOPES TO FIND VARIOUS WAYS TO MEET THE AGREED 30 PERCENT OFFSET.

7. THE BRITISH CITED EXAMPLES OF "SLOW PROGRESS" IN SEVERAL US-UK COOPERATIVE EFFORTS, NOTING IN PARTICULAR FAILURE OF US TO SIGN MOU PREVIOUSLY NEGOTIATED FOR UK-LICENSED PRODUCTION OF CANNON LAUNCHED GUIDED PROJECTILES (AN IMPORTANT NEW ANTI-TANK WEAPON FOR THE ALLIANCE) AND THE US TESTING OF THE BRITISH SKYFLASH AIR-TO-AIR MISSILE.

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8. ANDERSON, TALKING ON THE SUBJECT OF THE IMPLICATIONS OF NEW TECHNOLOGY, SAID UK HOPED THAT THE MILITARY COMMITTEE SPECIAL STUDY GROUP COULD WIND UP ITS CURRENT WAR GAMING EFFORTS (WHICH USE 1973 TECHNOLOGY) AND MOVE ON TO 1980-82 TECHNOLOGY. HE SAID THE NPG MILITARY IMPLICATIONS OF TECHNOLOGY EFFORT WAS USEFUL BUT ANDERSON FELT IT WOULD BE MORE PRODUCTIVE TO DISCUSS 1990 IMPLICATIONS OF TECHNOLOGY "ON A BILATERAL BASIS" AT FIRST. HE HOPED UK COULD BE READY FOR SUCH DISCUSSIONS IN A FEW MONTHS. ANDERSON SHOWED SOME CONCERN ABOUT SALT IMPLICATIONS -- FROM THE VIEWPOINT OF INHIBITION/CONSTRAINT ON NEW TECHNOLOGY -- SINCE UK DEPENDS SO SUBSTANTIALLY ON THE US FOR ASSISTANCE IN THE AREA OF NUCLEAR MISSILE DETERRENCE CAPABILITY. HE SAID THAT ONE IMPORTANT OPTION UK MUST CONSIDER FOR THE NEXT GENERATION UK DETERRENT FORCE IS THE CRUISE MISSILE. SAYING THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THE US PLANNED TO STEP UP CONSULTATION ON THESE MATTERS, ANDERSON SAID MOD IS MOST ENCOURAGED BY THAT REPORT.

9. ON THE RECENT 77/78 DEFENSE BUDGET CUTS, ANDERSON SAID THAT MOD HAD COMPLETED ITS REVIEW AND THAT MULLEY IS WRITING TO SECDEF AND LEBER ON 14 OR 15 FEBRUARY

TO PASS THE DETAILS. THESE CUTS FOR 77/78 ARE NOT CRITICAL FOR THE UK'S CONTRIBUTION TO NATO. AS FAR AS 78/79 CUTS ARE CONCERNED, ANDERSON SAID UK HOPED TO BEGIN CONSULTATIONS IN NATO IN MAY.

10. ON AWACS, BOTH MACKLEN AND ROBERTS INDICATED UK DISAPPOINTMENT WITH FRG DELAY IN REACHING A DECISION. MACKLEN, AFTER REAFFIRMING MULLEY'S SUPPORT FOR AWACS, WARNED THAT MULLEY'S SUPPORT IS INCREASINGLY BEING SUBJECTED TO VERY STRONG PRESSURE (FROM TRADE UNIONS, UK INDUSTRY AND SOME PARLIAMENTARIANS) TO CHOOSE NIMROD. ONCE AGAIN SENIOR OFFICIALS HAVE REEMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE
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TO UK THAT NATO DECISION BE TAKEN NLT MARCH.

11. ON THE MATTER OF THE PROPOSED TOW ANTI-TANK MIS-SILE MOU, BRITISH THROUGH A SEPARATE CONTACT PASSED TO BOWMAN MESSAGE THAT MOD IS DISTURBED BY "FOOT DRAGGING" ON US SIDE, NOTING THAT ISSUE HAS BEEN BEFORE WASHINGTON AGENCIES FOR MANY MONTHS. UK OFFICIALS DEALING WITH TOW CONSIDER EARLY AGREEMENT ON MOU VERY IMPORTANT AND ASK THAT MATTER BE EXPEDITED.

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